

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

USUN, NEW YORK 1926

US MISSION GENEVA 761

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BUENOS AIRES FOR WILCOX

USUN FOR SEIFMAN

US MISSION GENEVA FOR COBB AND SPRINGER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS UN SEND OCON ECA

SUBJ: ECA REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING FOR UN WATER CONFERENCE

1. SUMMARY: AFRICAN WERE GENERALLY INTERESTED IN CONFERENCE
ALTHOUGH SOME SKEPTICISM WAS EXPRESSED CONCERNING LIKELIHOOD
THAT CONCRETE BENEFITS WOULD RESULT. MAGUD WAS HIGHLY REGARDED
BY AFRICANS AND APPEARED TO BE EFFECTIVE IN BEHIND THE SCENES
WORK TO AVOID POLITICAL PROBLEMS UNRELATED TO CONFERENCE. NO
CONTENTIOUS ISSUES AROSE BETWEEN AFRICAN COUNTIRES. END SUMMARY.

2. UNCLASSIFIED SEPTTEL REPORTS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS.

3. IN GENERAL AFRICAN INTEREST IN CONFERENCE WAS STRONG BUT
MODERATED

BY SOME SKPTICISM RE CONCRETE BENEFITS WHICH MIGHT RESULT.

SIERRE LEONES, NIGERIA, GHANA, MAURITANIA, ZAIRE, MORROCCO,

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LIBERIA, SUDAN, ZAMBIA, AND TANZANIA WERE MOST ACTIVE DELEGATIONS WI

TH MR.

ABDULLAHI MOHANUD IBRAHIM OF SUDAN ASSUMING AN EFFECTIVE
LEADERSHIP ROLE FROM THE FLOO.

4. THE ECA SECRETARIAT AND MR. MAGUD PLAYED EFFECTIVE BEHIND
THE SCENES ROLE IN HEOPING CONFERENCE AVOID CONTENTIOUS ISSUES.
NONE AROSE DURING COURSE OF CONFERENCE EITHER RELATING TO
PROBLEMS BETWEEN AFRICAN COUNTIRES OR BETWEEN ARRICAN
COUNTIRES AND THE DEVELOPED WORLD. GHANA RAISED QUESTION OF
NEED TO MODIFY EXISTING ECONOMIC SYSTEM (SEE SEPTTEL) TO IMPROVE
POSTION OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP
IMMEDIATELY MOVED TO SET UP DRAFTEING COMMITTEE TO COMPOSE
APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE ON THIS ISSUE THEREBY AVOIDING DEFLECTION
OF CONFERENCE AWAY FROM IT MAIN PURPOSE, A TATIC WHICH
PROVED EFFECTIVE. FINAL LNAGUAGE WHICH WAS INCORPORATED IN
PREAMBLE OF FIANL REPORT REASONABLY MODERATE IN TONE.

5. US MAINTAINED A LOW PROFILE AS SUGGESTED IN REFTTEL.
US DEL JOHNSON SPOKE AT CONSLUSION COMPLEMENTING CONFERENCE
ON HIGH QUALITY ITS WORK AND EXPRESSING US INTEREST AND
PREPARATION FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE.
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